

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Suicide of Frank OLSEN,
Army Civilian Employee, Camp Dietrich.

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1. I was called by telephone at 5:00 A.M. this date by ~~_____~~ and asked to meet with him, Dr. Gibbons and Dr. Sidney Gottlieb in the latter's office in Quarters Eye. I arrived there about 5:40 and was told the following story:

2. Mr. Robert V. Lashbrook, a TSS employee, had been in New York City on two occasions during the last week accompanying Subject, who was taking psychiatric treatment from a Dr. Abramson. Olsen is a civilian employee of the Chemical Corps at Camp Dietrich. The arrangements for Olsen to proceed to New York were made by Colonel Vincent Ruethe (sp.), the officer in charge of Special Operations at Camp Dietrich, and at the suggestion of Dr. Gottlieb. The latter stated that he suggested Dr. Abramson due to the fact that the latter is a cleared consultant of both this Agency and the Chemical Corps, and that the sensitive nature of Olsen's work, part of which he was performing for TSS, made this appear desirable.

3. Dr. Gibbons stated that Olsen had been treated five or six times during the last week by Dr. Abramson. Olsen and Lashbrook returned to the Washington area for Thanksgiving but went back to New York City for further consultation with Abramson. Yesterday, Abramson decided that Olsen should be placed in a sanitarium for treatment for a period and apparently arrangements were made with a sanitarium near Rockville, called Chestnut Hill. Gottlieb reported that Subject had stated he was willing to take this treatment.

4. Last night, Lashbrook and Olsen had a room at the Statler Hotel. At 2:30 A.M. Lashbrook was awakened by a crash, awoke and found that someone had dived through the window, blind, glass and all. Olsen was missing from the room.

5. It appears that Lashbrook called Gottlieb before he called the desk. He then called the desk and police from the 14th Precinct arrived shortly. Lashbrook told the police of the employment of Olsen by Army. He told them that he, Lashbrook, was a Government employee who had been associated with Olsen. Lashbrook had an ACO card and also a CIA badge.

Serialized Olsen #4

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on his person. Police made notes of identifying data on both Lashbrook and the body.

6. When I arrived in Gottlieb's office, he was talking to Lashbrook, who had called from a pay station in the Statler. I told Gottlieb to tell Lashbrook to take another room at Statler and await later phone call from us.

7. I questioned Dr. Gibbons and Dr. Gottlieb at some length on certain matters which had occurred prior to this incident and which will follow later in this memorandum.

8. I then told Gottlieb to call Lashbrook at his room, which turned out to be Room 433 and to tell him Special Agent ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of the Department of Defense would call on him at 3:00 A.M. to assist and follow any future dealings or interviews with the police. I then sent word of the incident to ~~XXXXXX~~ and made the necessary arrangements with him.

EVENTS OCCURRING PRIOR TO THE SUICIDE

9. In my questioning of Drs. Gibbons and Gottlieb, they related the following events which preceded this incident.

10. It appears that on Wednesday and on Thursday, November 18th and 19th, a group of persons from Camp Dietrich and from TSS assembled at a cabin (two-story log house) at Deer Creek Lake. Gottlieb stated there were seven men from the "Special Operations" of Camp Dietrich and three men from TSS. The latter were Gottlieb, Lashbrook and Hughes of TSS. Gibbons stated that the TSS liaison and connection with the "Special Operations" had been kept "EYES ONLY" to a very few persons both in CIA and at Dietrich. He said it was known to Generals Bullene and Creary of the Chemical Corps. It appears that the purpose of this liaison and connection was to discuss and work on matters of mutual interest in the sensitive and covert fields. Gottlieb said the Dietrich group had meetings once or twice a year at the log-house referred to above.

11. In any event, it appears that the entire group had assembled at Deer Creek Lake by Thursday. On Thursday evening, it was decided to experiment with the drug LSD, and for the members present to administer the drug to themselves to ascertain the effect a clandestine application would have on a meeting or conference. Gottlieb stated a "very small dose" of LSD was placed in a bottle of cointreau and that all present except two of the persons had a drink thereof. This included Gottlieb and the Commanding Officer of Special Operations, Colonel Vinson Rustic (sp?). Olsen also was included in the group.

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12. Gottlieb reported that the drug had a definite effect on the group to the point that they were boisterous and "laughing" and they could not continue the meeting or engage in sensible conversations. Gottlieb asserts that the meeting broke up about 1:00 A.M. Friday morning. He stated that Olsen among others complained of wakefulness during the night. Gottlieb stated he drove home Friday morning as did Olsen.

13. On Tuesday, 24 November, it appears that Colonel Ruetten called Gottlieb and stated that Olsen appeared mentally depressed and evidently expressed some concern about him. Gottlieb then suggested that Lashbrook take Olsen up to New York City to be treated by Dr. Abramson. From that point, there were the series of psychiatric treatments and plan to hospitalize Olsen as narrated above.

14. When I arrived, Gottlieb had already communicated with Dr. Abramson. Gottlieb told me that Abramson said that Olsen's condition was one that existed prior to the events of 18 and 19 November. It should be recorded that Dr. Abramson has been experimenting with LSD on behalf of TSS. Gottlieb reiterated many times that outside of the boisterous effect and the inability to think properly, LSD has no harmful or permanently injurious effects.

Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security